

WASHINGTON  
NATIONAL  
50<sup>th</sup> ANIVERSARY  
Plácido Domingo  
*General Director*

Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program

*presents*

**A NIGHT AT THE OPERA:**

**CULTURE TO  
FEED THE IMAGINATION**

*Great American Voices*

*Military Base Tour*

Thursday, January 19, 2006  
7:30 pm

Robinson Auditorium, Thayer Hall

## Program

“Hm, hm, hm...”	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i> Christina Martos, Leslie Mutchler, Erin Elizabeth Smith Greg Warren, Obed Ureña	W.A. Mozart
“L'amour est un oiseau rebelle”	<i>Carmen</i> Leslie Mutchler	Georges Bizet
“Udite, o rustici”	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i> Obed Ureña	Gaetano Donizetti
"Che farò senza Euridice"	<i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i> JiYoung Lee, Erin Elizabeth Smith	Christoph Willibald Gluck
"O Mimi, tu più non torni"	<i>La Boheme</i> Greg Warren, Trevor Scheunemann	Giacomo Puccini
Quartet, "Bella figlia dell'amore"	<i>Rigoletto</i> JiYoung Lee, Leslie Mutchler Yingxi Zhang, Obed Ureña	Giuseppe Verdi
"Watch duet"	<i>Die Fledermaus</i> Christina Martos, Greg Warren	Johann Strauss II
"No puede ser"	<i>La tabernera del puerto</i> Yingxi Zhang	Pablo Sorozabal
“Canción del ruiseñor”	<i>Doña Francisquita</i> JiYoung Lee, Yingxi Zhang, Obed Ureña	Amadeo Vives
"Ain't it a pretty night"	<i>Susannah</i> Christina Martos	Carlisle Floyd
“If I Were a Bell”	<i>Guys and Dolls</i> Erin Elizabeth Smith	Frank Loesser
Soliloquy	<i>Carousel</i> Trevor Scheunemann	Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II
"Sing for your Supper"	<i>The Boys from Syracuse</i> Christina Martos, Leslie Mutchler, Erin Elizabeth Smith	Rodgers and Hart
Ensemble, "Make our garden grow"	<i>Candide</i> JiYoung Lee, Christina Martos, Leslie Mutchler, Erin Elizabeth Smith Greg Warren, Yingxi Zhang, Trevor Scheunemann, Obed Ureña	Leonard Bernstein

Steven Jarvi, conductor James Lesniak, piano  
Staged by Chía Patiño

## Meet the Artists



**Steven Jarvi**, conductor from Michigan, is in his second season with the Young Artist Program. Mr. Jarvi holds a Masters degree in Orchestral Conducting from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Gustav Meier, and a Bachelors degree from the University of Michigan. In 2005, Mr. Jarvi appeared at the Tanglewood Music Festival as the Seiji Ozawa Conducting Fellow performing with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra and Mark Morris Dance Group while studying with James Levine and Kurt Masur. He has also performed with the New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra, the Ann Arbor Symphony, the Manhattan School of Music Orchestra, the Hot Springs Festival Orchestra, the Michigan Pops Orchestra, and the Peabody Opera. Mr. Jarvi has been an Associate Conductor for New York City Opera and a cover conductor for Baltimore Lyric Opera and for the Washington National Opera world premiere of *Democracy*.

**JiYoung Lee**, soprano from Korea, is in her second season with the Young Artist Program. Currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in vocal performance at Yonsei University in Korea, she also holds a degree from the Longy School of Music. Ms. Lee has performed in the Young Artist Program at Opera North and with the Boston Classical Orchestra. She has been a regional finalist of the district Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. In 2004, Ms. Lee made her debut with the National Symphony Orchestra and returns again this season as Blonde in *Abduction from the Seraglio*. Last season, Ms. Lee sang the role of Queen of the Night in the Young Artist performance of *Die Zauberflöte* and covered the role of Essy Baker in the world premiere of *Democracy*. This season, she will cover the role of Elvira in *L'Italiana in Algeri* and sing the roles of Woglinde in *Das Rheingold* and Servilia in *La Clemenza di Tito*.



**James Lesniak**, pianist from Indiana, is in his second season with the Young Artist Program. Mr. Lesniak holds Bachelor and Masters degrees in Piano Performance from Indiana University. He has served on the coaching staffs of Indiana University Opera Theatre, Mississippi State University and Glimmerglass Opera, and most recently as Head Coach for the Brevard Music Center. This season, he serves on the music staff for Washington National Opera's production of *Trilogy: Domingo and Guests in Three Acts* and *L'elisir d'amore*, and perform the onstage role of Lazinski in *Fedora*, a part of the *Trilogy*.



**Christina Martos**, soprano from New Jersey, is in her second season with the Young Artist Program. She holds degrees in music from Yale University and Carnegie Mellon University and has performed several seasons with Central City Opera. Ms. Martos has also performed with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, Bronx Opera, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and with the Marilyn Horne Foundation at Carnegie Hall. Last season, she sang the role of Mrs. Grant in the world premiere of *Democracy*, covered the role of Agnes in *Maid of Orleans*, and sang the role of First Lady in the Young Artist performance of *Die Zauberflöte*. This season, she will sing the role of Gianetta in *L'elisir d'amore*.

**Leslie Mutchler**, mezzo-soprano from Maryland, is in her second season with the Young Artist Program. Ms. Mutchler holds both Bachelor and Masters degrees from Indiana University. She was a member of the Apprentice Program for Singers at Santa Fe Opera in 2004 and has also participated in the Chautauqua Opera Apprentice Artist Program, Indianapolis Opera Ensemble Program, and Opera North Young Artist Program. Last season, Ms. Mutchler sang the role of Inez in *Il Trovatore*, covered the role of Mrs. Lee in *Democracy: An American Comedy*, and sang the role of Third Lady in the Young Artist performance of *Die Zauberflöte*. This season, she sings the role of Hanna in *The Merry Widow*, part of *Trilogy: Domingo and Guests in Three Acts*, and Zulma in *L'Italiana in Algeri*.



**Chía Patiño**, from Ecuador, is in her second season as the Program's first Young Artist director. Ms. Patiño holds an MFA in Opera Stage Direction from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music, as well as degrees in Composition from Indiana University. She has directed Mozart's *Magic Flute* for the National Philharmonic, *El Laberinto Mágico* for Aguavá in the Library of Congress, the US Premiered of *4.48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane, *Dido and Aeneas*, *Transformations*, *La Cambiale di Matrimonio*, *The Mother of Us All* and *Rusalka* in Cincinnati, John Adam's *El Niño* and *Piramo e Tisbe* in Bloomington, Indiana, and *Così Fan Tutte* both in Wichita and in the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. As an assistant director, she has worked in numerous houses including Santa Fe Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Teatro Municipal de Santiago in Chile, and Opera Theatre of Lucca in Italy. She is currently working on the Young Artist Program's upcoming production of *Hansel and Gretel*.

**Trevor Scheunemann**, baritone from Maryland, is in his first season with the Young Artist Program. He holds a bachelor of music in vocal performance from Columbia Union College and has performed for several seasons with Washington National Opera both in the chorus and solo roles. Mr. Scheunemann has also sung in numerous productions with the Baltimore Opera Company including *Otello*, *La Rondine*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *La Fanciulla del West*. This fall, he appeared as Barone Douphol in *La Traviata* with the Baltimore Opera Company.



**Erin Elizabeth Smith**, mezzo-soprano, is in her second season with the Young Artist Program. Prior to this, she completed two years with the Juilliard Opera Center. Ms. Smith has performed with numerous companies including Lyrique en Mer in France, Central City Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and the Tanglewood Music Center. This season, roles with Washington National Opera included Ninetta in *I Vespri Siciliani* and Emilia in *Otello*, a part of the *Trilogy*, and Gianetta in the Young Artist performance of *L'elisir d'amore*. Last season she sang the role of the Second Lady in the Young Artist performance of *Die Zauberflöte*, and covered Mariana in *Luisa Fernanda* and Lydia in *Democracy*. In the recital arena, Ms. Smith has performed with the New York Festival of Song, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Westchester Philharmonic, and at the Library of Congress in Washington.



**Obed Ureña**, baritone from the Dominican Republic, joined the Young Artist Program this fall. He has studied at the National Music Conservatory, the Course for Young Singers at the Opera de las Americas in the Dominican Republic, and with bass Bonaldo Giaiotti. Mr. Ureña has performed at the Culture Auditorium, Guadeloupe, National Theater in Santo Domingo, and Great Ciabo Theater, Santiago. Competitions have included the International Jeunesses Musicales in Montreal, Music Interpretation Competition IMC/UNESCO in Santo Domingo, Concurs Internaciaonal de Can Montserrat Caballe in Andorra, and Concurs Internacional de Can Franseco Viñas in Barcelona.

**Greg Warren**, tenor from Texas, is in his first season with the Young Artist Program. He has been an apprentice artist with Santa Fe Opera, Cedar Rapids Opera, and El Paso Opera and has performed with numerous companies including Shreveport, Longview, West Palm Beach, and El Paso Operas. Mr. Warren holds degrees from Texas Tech University, Indiana University, and the Centenary College of Louisiana and has been a finalist in several competitions including the Lyric Opera of Chicago Competition, Houston Grand Opera Competition, Marguerite McCammon Competition, West Palm Beach Vocal Competition, and Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.



**Yingxi Zhang**, tenor from China, is in his first season with the Young Artist Program. He was a semi-finalist in the 2004 Operalia competition and has studied at the China Conservatory. He recently made his debut with Beijing Opera in the title role *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and has won several competitions and honors in China.

## About the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program

Overseen by Plácido Domingo and now in its fourth season, the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program is unique in guiding young singers, coach/accompanists, conductors, and stage directors on the verge of international careers. The Program provides intensive study with renowned vocal and drama coaches and offers voice lessons, language classes, and training in yoga and nutrition. The Young Artists have participated in master classes led by opera stars Plácido Domingo, Roberta Peters, and Shirley Verrett; directors Baz Luhrmann and Marthe Keller, and conductor Emmanuel Villaume. The Young Artists also have the opportunity to perform and cover roles on the main stage of Washington National Opera.

In addition to performances on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, the Young Artists have performed at the White House, the Kennedy Center Honors, the International Development Bank Cultural Center, the Senate Caucus Room, the Mexican Cultural Institute, the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery, and for numerous embassies, schools, and military bases. Each season, the Young Artists sing a fully staged performance on the stage of the Kennedy Center Opera House. In response to their performance of *La Cenerentola*, *The Washington Post* declared that "the experiment was a smashing success" and that "the performance had a quality nearly equal to (and in some places better than) the main stage performances of this production". This spring, the Young Artists will present Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*.

Last season the Program commissioned and premiered *Democracy: An American Comedy* by Scott Wheeler with the libretto by Romulus Linney. Performed by current and former Young Artists, the work was the first commission by Washington National Opera in a decade.

Graduates of the Program have gone on to successful careers including performances at the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, National Symphony Orchestra, Weill Recital Hall, Los Angeles Opera, Canterbury Opera in New Zealand, and Teatro Real in Madrid, among others.

### Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program Staff:

Michelle Krisel, *Director*

Jennifer Empie, *Associate Director*

Ken Weiss, *Principal Coach*

Edward C. Purrington, *Artistic Consultant*

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